

# Daily Alaska Empire

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## ILLITERATE AMERICA

National pride in "the American way," however justified in the accomplishments of politics, business or industry, finds less foundation in the province of public education. The United States is well in the rear of various European nations from the standpoint of literacy.

This country's last rating on literacy, made in 1930, listed 95.7 percent of the population as literate. The Scandinavian countries boast literacy rates of 99 plus percent. Any Danish child who commits truancy is liable to a fine. Compulsory education has been in effect in Sweden for almost a century. Norway, which has two national languages, provides public instruction in both to be sure of reaching everyone. In Switzerland, the illiteracy rate is less than half of one percent, and has been for 30 years or more. Classes are conducted in the four languages used in the country, and half the children between three and six years of age are already in school.

Illiteracy is below one percent in the Netherlands. The same is true in England, Scotland, Ireland, and Germany. Russia, which at the end of the eighteenth century was rated as more than 90 percent illiterate, is estimated to have reduced the percentage to approximately ten.

Considerable progress has been made in the United States since 1930, of course. In the decade before that, the number of illiterate persons in the country was reduced by less than one million. But during the past nine years the adult education programs conducted by the Work Projects Administration, the Civilian Conservation Corps, plus greater activity of truant officers and the mortality of aged illiterates, are believed to have reduced the number of illiterates in the nation to two and a half million. However, judged by the standard of Northern Europe, the United States still has room for improvement.

## PROGRESS NOTE

News dispatch from Peekskill, N. Y.: "Army officers estimated today that 36 marksmen armed with the new semi-automatic Garand rifle would take only one minute to annihilate an entire regiment in the open."

## CASUALTY LIST

Effects of the war as reported from London: "Many of the inmates of the London Zoo have caught colds, due to war economy. Animals from tropical regions are feeling the lack of heat. Felix, the Indian rhinoceros, is ill for the first time since 1924. The alligators also are having a hard time and have grown unusually lethargic."

## Iron and Alaska

(Seattle Post-Intelligencer)  
Following President Roosevelt's suggestion that an iron and steel industry should be established upon the Pacific Coast, comes the gratifying news that Secretary Ickes has directed Interior Department

agencies to investigate all angles of the proposal. Among the first subjects for study should be the iron ores of Alaska.

That Alaska has extensive deposits of iron ore is well known. What must be learned is how extensive these deposits are, how much good ore can be developed and how close to tidewater the development can be carried on.

Alaska, in many respects, may be compared with Norway, Sweden and Finland. Our Territory and the Scandinavian countries are similarly located in their respective continents. All have fisheries, timber and mineral resources.

Alaska has the benefit of a larger area with a mild climate. It has more power, more gold and more copper than the three European countries combined.

Yet Alaska today has a population of only one person for each ten square miles. Sweden boasts 39 persons per square mile, Finland 27 and Norway 22.

Why have the Scandinavian countries been able to support a much larger population? Mainly because they have been able to develop on the Scandinavian Peninsula a prosperous steel industry. The fact that many millions of consumers are located in the immediate vicinity has helped, and so has the policy of intensive development of natural resources in general.

But when an American steel company can ship iron ore from Chile to the interior of Pennsylvania for manufacture, and ship the produce back to the Pacific Coast, it is evident that distance alone is not the controlling factor.

Because developed power and coking coals are more readily available in the Puget Sound region, it is probable that the first activity connected with the steel industry in which Alaska will be interested will be in providing iron ore, with smelting plants to be established in this vicinity.

Such a development would add to the present economic ties between Alaska and Puget Sound. It would add tremendously to the progress of the entire West.

It is an undertaking that should claim the unremitting attention of all appropriate branches of government, national and state, and the vigorous cooperation of every Chamber of Commerce and business group in this region.

## Raiders at Large

(Cincinnati Enquirer)

Recalling the havoc wrought by the few German merchant vessels and cruisers which got loose on the high seas in the World War, many persons have been led to expect far greater destruction from two or three German "pocket battleships" which are now at large, having eluded the British blockade in the North Sea. The German ships already have done some damage, and one is now in the Indian Ocean, but there is little reason to anticipate a long life for them.

Built for a specific purpose, the Deutschland and Admiral Scheer are in reality heavy armored cruisers. By using welded plates instead of riveted, and by weight-saving Diesel engines, the designers of these ships saved enough weight to put six 11-inch guns on a 10,000-ton hull and yet maintain a speed of 26 knots and a 10,000-mile radius. This was quite an achievement in naval architecture, but the resulting warships with their 5½-inch armor belts are costly instruments for a job of sea raiding.

They have not the advantage of concealment, for nothing they do can go unnoticed. Converted merchantmen might raid for months on end and still elude discovery, but not pocket battleships. It is true they can outshoot all Britain's cruisers and outrun all her battleships. But there remain the three battle cruisers, as well as two or three comparable French vessels, which mount heavier guns and also make more speed.

If the pocket battleship were in reality so advantageous a design, Germany would have built more of them. But when restrictions were lifted, or ignored, the Reich proceeded to build two 26,000-ton battleships and still later to lay the keels for three 35,000-tonners.

Because they cannot face up to the battle line of the enemy, these hybrid ships of Germany's must either serve purely defensive roles in the shelter of the North Sea bases or else do their raiding at distant points on the Allied sea communication lines. This means they cannot operate near the approaches of the Mediterranean or the Channel, where the booty would be far greater than on open or distant seas.

## Our Hotel Gleaners

(New York Times)

When one reads of the number of hotel towels, blankets and ashtrays which hotel patrons carry away every year, one can only be astonished, as Lord Clive said of himself in a similar connection, at their moderation. The value of such pickings by American souvenir hunters was estimated by the president of the Pennsylvania Hotel Association at \$1,000,000 a year. But what is this wastage in an industry with nearly one and a half million guest rooms and annual receipts of three-quarters of a billion dollars? It is about one-tenth of one percent.

The hotel spokesman thinks that people who carry off bed sheets and silver spoons suffer from a warped moral outlook. But it is really much more in the nature of an ancient folkway. It belongs in the same category with drawing a mustache on the beautiful ladies in the subway posters. One does, you know. It is not really theft, because the customers must be aware that ultimately they pay for these things. It is a fixed item in hotel overhead.

## Horoscope

"The stars incline but do not compel"

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8.

Good and evil aspects contend in the horoscope for this day. It is not a fortunate configuration for shipping, as storms and other perils menace voyagers. There should be much constructive activity while this configuration prevails. Engineers, chemists and scientists should benefit. Strange discoveries are to be utilized in warfare after the new year.

Heart and Home: This is not a promising date for romance. Social festivities may be disappointing to the young. Elderly suitors will be fortunate and unlucky, since war, far-off or near, casts its glamor over men in uniform. This is a promising date for communicating with affluent relatives who may be found in a generous mood. It is an auspicious day for starting on a journey. The stars smile upon banks and bankers today.

Business Affairs: Trade between the United States and Canada should be stimulated under this planetary government. This neighborliness, however, is seen to include the danger of entanglement in the war in Europe. Factories will work overtime in the east and the west through the winter months. Strikes will be threatened but prevented as public opinion withholds sympathy for increased wage demands.

National Issues: Supporters of the League of Nations will advocate a conference of neutral powers and will urge strong participation by the United States government. Dangerous speculation and activity in the stock market will tempt many, including women. Growth of confidence in American diplomats will be marked as their counsel is sought on unusual problems concerning commerce and trade. Bankers will seek advice in Washington.

International Affairs: In Germany and Italy there will be ominous signs of discontent among the people due to economic conditions. Food restrictions will increase illness among the aged and deplete the energy of workers. Sweden will enjoy prosperity as sales of iron and other munition essentials bring large returns. Food will be plentiful in the Scandinavian countries, but Denmark will consume large reserves in feeding armies mobilized for defense.

Persons whose birthdate it is have the augury of a year of good fortune. Losses may be sustained through carelessness regarding legal papers, stock certificates and bonds. Children born on this day probably will be possessed of a high order of intelligence. They may be impulsive and forceful in expressing their desires, affectionate and trustworthy.

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## Firemen to Meet Tonight

The Juneau Fire Department members will hold their regular monthly meeting tonight at the Fire Club.

Under the order of business for the evening, plans will be launched for the annual Firemen's Ball in February and the annual Christmas Day open house at the Fire Club.

## Okay, Relax; Those Mines Won't Cross The Atlantic Ocean

(Continued from Page One)

Interested eye on the business. Much of our Atlantic coastal traffic follows the shallow lanes close to the shore where it isn't necessary to buck the Gulf Stream current on the southward turn. The water is smoother there, sheltered in part from Atlantic storms. But it is in just such shallow water that the mine works best.

The effectiveness of such mining is far greater than one would think. The mines may get only three or four ships a day, but it keeps hundreds of others from running the risk. Western bandits used to work on that basis. A bandit would jump suddenly into a frontier saloon on a lush Saturday night and get away with payrolls and prospectors' pokes. He could keep 50 men at bay by warning:

"Don't try to rush me. I can't stop you all but I will drop the first six." That was one for each bullet in his six-shooter. Mines are like that. Every ship sunk by a mine means one mine less to worry about. But it is a hair-raising way to be rid of them.

## STORM WARNING

SAN FRANCISCO, Cal., Dec. 7.—Weather Bureau forecasters report that a terrific storm is moving in from the Pacific Ocean and is due to strike the Northwest coast. The storm extends nearly half way to the Orient. It is due to bring heavy rains and high wind to British Columbia, Washington, Oregon and the northern part of California.

## 20 YEARS AGO

From THE EMPIRE

DECEMBER 7, 1919.

The resort known locally as the "Road House" at Salmon Creek was raided at 2 o'clock in the morning and the owner was taken into custody under the charge of having liquor in his possession.

The new mine tender Ambassador, belonging to the Chichagof Mining Co., arrived in port on the first trip.

President F. W. Ketchmark of the newly organized Independent Gold Mining Corporation, left on the Pheasant for Windham Bay where the company was operating.

A memorial service was held at the Elks' at which time Judge Robert W. Jennings delivered the eulogy.

John R. Bender, proprietor of the Ready-to-wear store of Petersburg, was in Juneau visiting.

Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Robertson were returning passengers on the City of Seattle after a trip of several weeks.

P. J. Lynch, of the Lynch Brothers Diamond Drill contractors, was on the City of Seattle. He was on a business trip to look after the interests of his company which was operating a number of drills in this part of the country.

C. F. Ferdine, engineer of the Murre, belonging to the Fish company, was at the Gastineau Hotel.

Walter B. King of Thane spent the week-end at the Gastineau Hotel.

Weather—Highest 29; Lowest, 26. Clear.

## MODERN ETIQUETTE

By Roberta Lee

Q. When a woman has been introduced to you as "Alice Young," how do you know whether to address her as Mrs. Young or Miss Young?

A. The only thing to do is to ask her, unless there is some one else nearby whom you can ask.

Q. What is the birth stone for December, and its significance?

A. The turquoise, signifying success and prosperity.

Q. May a woman retain her coat in a restaurant, instead of checking it?

A. Yes; it may be slipped over the back of her chair.

## Susannah Wesleys Plan Xmas Affair

Members of the Susannah Wesley Circle met yesterday afternoon for a business session in the social room of the Methodist Church at which time a financial report was made on the bazaar and plans were made for a Christmas party. The holiday affair will be held

## Happy Birthday

The Empire extends congratulations and best wishes today, their birthday anniversary, to the following:

DECEMBER 7.

Mrs. A. R. Edwards

Carolyn McAllister

Lois LaGasa

Echo Cangalose

Robert Sarovich

Robert A. Hildre

Mary Loken

Jacyneth Sey

Rudolph A. Shinnberg

Frank A. Olson

## LOOK and LEARN

By A. C. Gordon

1. What is meant by the term "crocodile tears"?
2. What U. S. President visited Europe, and why?
3. What is a female fox called?
4. What acid is present in vinegar?
5. Which is the oldest standing monarchy in Europe?

## ANSWERS

1. Hypocritical grief; the crocodile was fabled as weeping while it ate its victim.
2. Woodrow Wilson, to take part in the Peace Conference following the World War.
3. A vixen.
4. Acetic acid.
5. Great Britain.

## DAILY LESSONS IN ENGLISH

By W. L. Gordon

Words Often Misused: Do not say, "Give me a little bit." Omit little. Bit means a very small piece.

Often Mispronounced: Chaparrals (cowboy's overalls). Pronounce cha-pa-ra-hos, all three a's as in ah, o as in no, secondary accent on first syllable, principal accent on third syllable.

Often Misspelled: Medal; one l. Medallion; two l's.

Synonyms: Gist, essence, substance, pith and main point.  
Word Study: "Use a word three times and it is yours." Let us increase our vocabulary by mastering one word each day. Today's word: Chaos; confused state of things; complete disorder. (Pronounce ka-oh' a as in ate, o as in of, accent first syllable.) "He brought order out of chaos."

jointly on December 20, with the Men's Club and the Sunday School, and will be in the form of a pot-luck supper.  
Arrangements for the Christmas party will be made by Mrs. Lee Corke, Mrs. John Rogers and Mrs. George Martin.

Lode and placer location notices for sale at The Empire Office.

## Daily Crossword Puzzle

### ACROSS

1. Remain in active
5. Dry
6. Fate brown
12. Room in a harem
14. Wife of Zeus
15. Makes official proof of a will
17. Dismounted
18. Number of manual digits
19. Waldo's coat
21. Connection
22. Contentible person
23. Deed
24. Kindly
25. Impure
26. Detail of an account
34. State with conviction
35. Pore bears
37. Animal raised for beef
38. Kind of liquor
39. Mottled appearance in mahogany
40. Unit of weight
42. Compound
43. Pronoun
45. Lamb's pen

### Solution of Yesterday's Puzzle

D	O	M	A	I	N	L	O	C	A	T	E
E	L	A	I	N	E	R	A	T	O	R	
P	I	T	E	A	P	O	T	S	L	O	
A	V	A	E	R	O	S	H	I	E		
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S	R	A	D								
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A	G	R	A								
M	O	S	T	E	R	I	L	E	I	S	
P	U	R	S	E	R						
S	T	E	E	D	S						

### DOWN

1. Cried
2. 160 square rods of land
3. Metal
4. Vat
5. Famous
6. Roman date
7. Gone by
8. Sunken fence
9. Comparative
10. Any plant of the iris family
11. Chief of a Moro tribe
16. Pertaining to grandparents
20. American Indian
22. Ruminant animal
24. Shipping container
25. Saw with the gain
26. Greek letter
27. Flowering plant
28. Paid public notices
29. Command to a cow
30. Neighborly working gathering
31. Make a mistake
33. Pronoun
36. Born
37. Rail bird
39. Vibrating parts of certain musical instruments
40. Trial
41. Wide-mouthed jar
43. Nimble colloq.
44. Genealogical record
45. Article of apparel
46. Upper end
47. Periods
49. Season for use
51. Driving horse

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